

not divulge the content of personal case files like this because they are considered privileged communication and they are private.

My tremendous case worker, Patti Chapman, worked with Jamie since her rescue and has helped her in this most tragic way, and helped her in a compassionate way. Patti Chapman, like many congressional caseworkers, are angels to the people in our communities. Jamie has had the courage to publicly tell about this most personal crime against her. So my office and now Chairman CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee have contacted the Attorney General and the State Department and we want answers about this case and the investigation.

Specifically, what is going on over there in Iraq? American citizens have civil rights overseas as well. Crimes committed against them must be investigated. Criminals must be held accountable. Our government has the legal and moral duty to capture these villains of Baghdad. Also, hundreds of American civilians like Jamie are in Iraq working in support of America's military mission. When these American civilians become victims of crimes by other Americans, it is unclear who's enforcing the law. Our government must clear up this confusion, because currently there seems to be an environment of lawlessness. These criminals must be held accountable.

Madam Speaker, let me tell you about sexual assault. I was a former judge and saw these victims and their perpetrators in court, and these demons that do these dastardly acts against victims don't commit these crimes for sexual pleasure, but, Madam Speaker, they do it to destroy the inner soul of these victims. Jamie Leigh Jones survived and has been rescued, but the outlaws still roam the deserts of Iraq like the outlaws in the days of the Old West. We need justice. We need the law to intervene and round up these outlaws for their day in court. Let justice be swift, let it be severe, let it be serious, because justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PRESSLEY WOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of South Carolina's own, Sylvia Pressley Woods, affectionately known as the "Queen of Soul Food." In August of 1962, Sylvia put her charismatic personality to the test by purchasing a restaurant, which at the time was only a small luncheonette, from her boss.

Almost 50 years later, Sylvia's, as she named it, has become a landmark at 126th Street and Lenox Avenue, and a place where everyone knows they can get a taste of authentic southern soul

food cuisine. The restaurant also serves to remind the community's residents that hard work, determination, and love of family can lead to success.

Madam Speaker, Woods herself has a remarkable story that encapsulates much of the 20th century African-American history. She was born Sylvia Pressley on February 2, 1926, in Hemingway, South Carolina, a small rural town which I proudly represent in this august body. On December 22, next week, many of her friends will gather at Sanders Point near Santee, South Carolina, to celebrate the holidays with Sylvia. Tonight, I am being joined by members of the New York delegation in honoring a loving mother, an astute restaurateur, an enterprising businesswoman, and an outstanding South Carolinian, Mrs. Sylvia Pressley Woods.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would like to yield to the dean of the New York delegation, the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, a special thanks to JIM CLYBURN, our Whip and leader, for reaching back to pay tribute to an American that so often people forget what one can accomplish in this great country if they are willing to work hard.

You know, Mr. CLYBURN, I knew the world famous owner of Sylvia's when she was a waitress at a restaurant just one block away where she anchored her success, and she and her husband came together and went to South Carolina, two friends, in order to get the money necessary for her to start her own future. Mr. Woods, and we just lost him a few years back, would be up at 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning with that truck, going to the produce markets, picking the best vegetables, and then she would have her children and now her grandchildren, all a part of this wonderful family, and now that she's reached a point that her products are sold in supermarkets and throughout the world and that she has acclaimed a great deal of attention from tourists all over the world as these tourist buses are lined up, it doesn't surprise anybody to see Sylvia there asking these customers that she probably will never see again in life, How did you enjoy the meal and what can we do to help?

So let me thank you on behalf of all of Harlemites, even Congressman GREGORY MEEKS from the borough of Queens, who has to admit that coming from Harlem means a special thing to us, because he was one of us before he lost his way. And so when I heard that you were doing this on behalf of Harlem, who cherishes the rise of Sylvia's late husband, her children and her wonderful grandchildren, who still bring people from all over the world into the village of Harlem, let me thank you, JIM CLYBURN, for reminding us that we have so many heroes and "sheroes" in our country, and they deserve what you're doing for them in South Carolina. I thank you.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I would like to now yield to one who has lost his way and will refind it tonight, the Honorable GREGORY MEEKS from the Sixth District of New York.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Thank you, Mr. Whip, and I thank you also for bringing this recognition to Sylvia; because as a former Harlemites, I can recall going to Sylvia's. It was a place that brought families together. I can recall my parents bringing me to Sylvia's to have a family dinner or having breakfast in the morning. And it united people and it made us proud because it did say just what the chairman said, talking about African Americans owning their own business and feeding the masses as she did. And it was affordable.

So it was a family place. And, for me, I can remember those breakfasts. Those grits and salmon cakes were just delicious and fantastic. As I am here now standing and looking, and we are talking about trade all over the world. You talk about reducing the trade deficit for the United States? Sylvia is helping to reduce the trade deficit as she now cans her food and sends it all across the world so they all can enjoy the delicious food.

Thank you for honoring Sylvia Woods today because she is truly a shero, one that I can recall as a young child looking up to and saying that one day that we could be prosperous like her. Thank you for never forgetting her roots and where we come from, Mr. Whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Thank you, Mr. MEEKS.

Let me close my 5 minutes, Madam Speaker, by reiterating something that I think all of us ought to think about. Sylvia Pressley Woods' father died when she was 3 days old. He died from the effects of chemical weapons that he had encountered in World War I. Her grandfather was hanged when her mother was a little child. But all of that experience helped to toughen her and make her the outstanding entrepreneur that she is today. On February 2, she turns 82 years old, but she gets up every morning and still goes to that restaurant. She is a great woman.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, Sylvia's Restaurant of Harlem is known as one of this country's greatest restaurants which has a selection of mouth-watering dishes that each time will leave you wanting more. This is one of the best-known restaurants in New York and serves its patrons good southern cooking with a dash of Sylvia's secret seasoning.

Sylvia Woods worked at Johnson's Luncheonette as a waitress. Her opportunity came when the owner offered to sell her the business. She purchased the original luncheonette by borrowing \$20,000 from her mother who had to mortgage her farm in Hemingway, SC.

The establishment, which consists of not only the restaurant but catering and banquet facilities, was started in July of 1962. back then the menu consisted of very simple things; pigtales, lima beans, hamhocks, and neck bones. There was only one cook on staff and they picked their food up in the trunk of a car.

In 1981, they bought an adjoining building on Lenox Avenue, renovated it and turned it into a dining room. In 1992, Sylvia's son, Van Woods, launched a line of Sylvia's Soul Food Products. The line consists of Sylvia's world famous all-purpose sauces, pre-seasoned vegetables, spices, syrup, cornbread, pancake mixes, and several other items that can be found on the shelves at any grocery store.

With the help of some great investors, Sylvia's was able to open its second restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia in 1997. Sylvia's of Atlanta is located right across from City Hall. Plans are in the works to open additional Sylvia's restaurants in Texas, Kansas, Illinois, California, South Carolina, and Paris, France.

This well-known restaurant attracts a clientele that ranges from Harlem locals to visiting celebrities including President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and Magic Johnson.

However, Sylvia's success is not based solely on her restaurants and food product line. Recently, the family launched a line of beauty products for hair and skin. Sylvia's beauty products consist of two brands: Sylvia's Beauty and Soul Products; and African Vision Products.

Sylvia and her husband Herbert will tell you the secret of their success is love, family and hard work, love of God, love of family, love of friends, customers, and love of work.

Sylvia and Herbert met in a bean field when they were 11 and 12 years old, respectively. They attended the same school and church and have now been married for nearly 65 years.

I would like to honor Sylvia's Soul Food Restaurant where I have eaten on many occasions and where I plan to eat again.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THANKING MR. BEN SOLOMON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful House to say farewell to Ben Solomon. Ben is the manager of the Longworth convenience store, and we want to thank him for his 4 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Employed for over 19 years by Guest Services, Incorporated, Ben's assignment to run the Longworth convenience store began on December 15, 2003. Since that time, he has endeared himself to Members, House staff, and visitors.

Ben has been nicknamed Mr. Mayor of Longworth Main Street because of his unwavering commitment to serve the needs of every customer to the full-

est extent possible no matter who they are or their political affiliation. To Ben, all politics was local. He always greeted every customer warmly with his ever present smile and a kind word. Most of the 1,000 or so customers who pass through the store daily are greeted by name. His positive outlook never fails to make even strangers feel welcome.

Ben can be proud of the level of service he provided to his customers each and every day. He viewed his work as a sacred duty, and felt no job was too small for him to do. He could be seen in the hallway working alongside his employees unpacking boxes of merchandise. At the same time, Ben would take the time to pause and say hello to any number of many familiar customers as they passed by the store. Ben brought a unique brand of sincerity and dedication to his job every single day. It is marvelous to look at each nook and cranny of the store shelves at the many unique and interesting things Ben would stock because one of his customers asked for it at an earlier visit.

On behalf of the entire House community, we bid a fond farewell to our friend, Ben Solomon, and extend our deepest appreciation for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him well. We wish him success in his future endeavors. He will sincerely be missed by all.

We are also grateful to all those who serve in this great House, service to many of us in so many different ways, and especially honor Ben this evening.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of Mr. CLYBURN's Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, normally we come to this floor to debate, and quite often in our Special Orders we have the opportunity to speak in positive tones about positive things that are going on in our district or in our Nation.

I am very proud to represent Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. It is the district that encompasses Independence, Missouri, and the home of Harry Truman. In this Fifth District, I am proud that the fastest growing city in the State of Missouri is not the two largest cities, Kansas City being the largest, St. Louis being the second largest, but it is a city that many people have not even heard of. It is called Lee's Summit.

Lee's Summit, Missouri is exploding with growth. Its mayor, Karen Messerli, is doing a fantastic job. The downtown area is being redeveloped. But what I want to zero in on this evening is Lee's Summit West High School.

Madam Speaker, this high school has achieved something that I don't believe can be matched by any other congressional district. So far this year, from September to December, they have won three State 4A championships. The girls volleyball team won the State championship coached by Mark Rice. The girls cross country won the 4A State championship coached by Dave Denny. And then, just recently the Titans football team coached by Royce Boehm won the 4A Missouri State championship and went through the entire season undefeated.

I was listening to Judge Poe earlier talk about some tragedies in Iraq. And I sat here, and it caused me to tremble to think about what that young woman must have gone through; and it also caused me to renew my commitment to focus on the positive attributes of our young people. If you visit Lee's Summit High School, which has been in existence only 4 years, 4 years, and it has already become one of the most prominent schools in the State of Missouri, not just for athletics, but because this school is well organized. Their population, 1,300 students, is constantly growing. The principal of that school, Cindy Bateman, is doing a fabulous job. They are achieving academically. And I am so proud to be able to stand on this floor tonight and speak without qualification about how fabulously this school is performing.

Most of the time, girls' athletics are ignored. And so in the Missouri 4A volleyball championship, probably there are people even around in Lee's Summit who are unaware of the fact that that State championship has been won. The cross country club normally would be ignored, but they have achieved something positive. They brought some positive attention to that school.

And so, on this night, I would not only like to lift them up and express how proud I am to represent that particular area, but I would also encourage any Member of the United States